

## Medical Marijuana Registry Program Update (as of April 30, 2009)

In the November 2000 general election, Coloradoans passed Amendment 20, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) was tasked with implementing and administering the Medical Marijuana Registry program. In March of 2001, the State of Colorado Board of Health approved the Rules and Regulations pertaining to the administration of the program, and on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001, the Registry began accepting and processing applications for Registry Identification cards.

Statistics of the registry include:

- 8,315 new patient applications have been received to date since the registry began operating in June 2001. Thirty-two (32) applications have been denied, 18 cards have been revoked, 171 patients have died, and 1,390 cards have expired, bringing the total number of patients who currently possess valid Registry ID cards to 6,704. The renewal rate is 56%.
- Seventy-two percent of approved applicants are male.
- The average age of all patients is 27. Currently 4 patients are minors (under the age of 18).
- Sixty-three counties (98% of counties) in Colorado have registered applicants. Forty-nine percent of patients reside in the Denver-metro and Boulder area, with the remainder of patients found in counties throughout Colorado.
- Patients on the Registry represent all the debilitating conditions covered under Amendment 20. Severe pain accounts for 88% of all reported conditions; muscle spasms account for the second-most reported condition at 24%.
- Forty-six percent of patients have designated a primary care-giver (someone who has significant responsibility for managing the patient's care).
- Over 600 different physicians have signed for patients in Colorado.

Please see the attached tables for a complete listing of all statistical information.

As of June 14, 2004 care-givers are no longer issued cards.

As of January 25, 2008 only a portion of the patient's social security number appears on their registration card.

As of October 27, 2008 all applications, renewal and changes to the Registry must be submitted via mail and include a legible photo copy of the patient's Colorado Identification. Faxes and emails will no longer be accepted.

As of December 1, 2008 all changes to the Registry must be signed by the patient making the change in blue ink.

The Amendment requires that an application be approved or denied within 35 days of receipt by CDPHE. Currently, the Registry is issuing ID cards within three weeks of receipt of a complete application.

In addition to administering the Registry, CDPHE has been charged with accepting and reviewing petitions to add conditions to the current list of debilitating medical conditions/symptoms. To date, four petitions have been received, one for Parkinson's disease, one for Asthma, one for Anxiety and another for Bi-Polar Disorder. All petitions were subsequently denied due to lack of scientific evidence that treatment with marijuana might have a beneficial effect.

There have been three marijuana-related convictions of patients on the Registry, and no physicians have experienced federal reprisals. However, reluctance to participate due to the inconsistencies between state and federal marijuana laws has been expressed by doctors and patients alike.

Another barrier to participation on the Registry may be the cost. No general funds have been designated for this program, and the Amendment allows CDPHE to collect fees to cover the administrative costs of administering the program. Currently the fee is \$90, and is evaluated annually by CDPHE. The fee was lowered from \$110 on June 1, 2007.

Numerous questions have arisen regarding interpretation of statutory language. The law does not clearly state where marijuana plants may be grown or if two or more patients and/or care-givers may share one growing space. Statutory language also places certain burdens upon local and state law enforcement officers, such as the

requirement of keeping alive plants that are confiscated until a resolution is reached (i.e. a decision not to prosecute, the dismissal of charges, an acquittal, etc.).

Table I: County Information

County	Number of Patients	Percent of Patients
Adams	445	7%
Alamosa	7	<1%
Arapahoe	543	8%
Archuleta	22	<1%
Baca	6	<1%
Bent	4	<1%
Boulder	613	9%
Broomfield	57	<1%
Chaffee	33	<1%
Cheyenne	*	*
Clear Creek	18	<1%
Conchos	*	*
Costilla	3	<1%
Crowley	7	<1%
Custer	7	<1%
Delta	57	1%
Denver	865	13%
Dolores	7	<1%
Douglas	197	3%
Eagle	56	<1%
El Paso	755	11%
Elbert	23	<1%
Fremont	62	<1%
Garfield	52	<1%
Gilpin	37	<1%
Grand	35	<1%
Gunnison	38	<1%
Hinsdale	4	<1%
Huerfano	40	<1%
Jackson	3	<1%
Jefferson	770	11%
Kiowa	*	*
Kit Carson	*	*
La Plata	108	2%
Lake	27	<1%
Larimer	697	10%
Las Animas	21	<1%
Lincoln	*	*
Logan	11	<1%
Mesa	166	2%
Moffat	10	<1%
Montezuma	26	<1%
Montrose	66	1%
Morgan	11	<1%
Otero	30	<1%
Ouray	11	<1%
Park	62	1%
Phillips	8	<1%
Pitkin	16	<1%
Prowers	3	<1%
Pueblo	140	2%
Rio Blanco	6	<1%

Rio Grande	7	<1%
Routt	22	<1%
Saguache	16	<1%
San Juan	*	*
San Miguel	16	<1%
Sedgwick	*	*
Summit	82	1%
Teller	86	1%
Washington	*	*
Weld	274	4%
Yuma	4	<1%

\* Indicates fewer than three patients in each category

Table II: Conditions

Reported Condition	Number of Patients Reporting Condition	Percent of Patients Reporting Condition**
Cachexia	149	2%
Cancer	233	4%
Glaucoma	95	1%
HIV/AIDS	109	2%
Muscle Spasms	1,586	24%
Seizures	247	4%
Severe Pain	5,917	88%
Severe Nausea	1,522	23%

\*\*Does not add to 100% as some patients report using medical marijuana for more than one debilitating medical condition.

Table III: User Characteristics

Sex	Percent on Registry	Average Age**
Male	72%	27
Female	28%	29

\*\* The overall average age of all patients is 27 years old.